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INDIAN
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ICCR's Festival of Democracy right at its Birth Place

New Delhi : A first-of-its kind Vaishali Festival of Democracy will be held on Friday, 15 September at Nalanda University, Rajgir in Bihar. 'Being jointly organised by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), and Nalanda University, this festival is basically to celebrate International Day of Democracy by creating deeper understanding about India's contribution in shaping the idea of democracy, manifested in multiple ways through Indian culture much before the advent of democracy as Governance system', said Dr Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, President ICCR addressing the media in Delhi today. ICCR DG, Kumar Tuhin and other officials too were present at this press meet.

Dr Sahasrabuddhe further said that 'Vaishali Festival of Democracy stands as a tribute to Vaishali, an ancient city in Bihar, known as the world's first republic. With its historical roots dating back to the sixth century BCE, Vaishali's legacy resonates with democratic principles such as equality, liberty, and self-governance – values that continue to shape the modern world.'

In addition, a significant highlight of the festival is the book release ceremony of 'India: Mainspring of Democratic Traditions,' edited by Dr. Priyadarshi Dutta under the guidance of Dr. Shantishree Pandit, Vice Chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University. This book is an ensemble of scholarly contributions highlighting democratic values, their historical contexts, and their modern-day application.

Former President Ram Nath Kovind will be the Chief Guest at the inauguration of this festival. Bihar Governor Rajendra Arlekar, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarmah, Minister of State Meenakshi Lekhi, JNU VC Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit and many others including some ambassadors of about a dozen countries will be present at the inaugural function.

This festival will also feature two panel discussions. One on Culture of Democracy and the other on Implementation of Democracy. Ambassador of Chile, Juan Rolando Angulo Monsalve; Ambassador of Egypt Wael Mohamed Awad Hamed; Ambassador of Nepal, Dr. Shankar Prasad Sharma; and High Commissioner of Sri Lanka, Milinda Moragoda, will be participating in this festival.

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